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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/423,014	01/18/2000	LAURENT MARCQ	19210/125/10	6235

7590 07/15/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

GREEN, BRIAN

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

3611

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/423,014	MARCQ, LAURENT
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Brian K. Green	3611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 25-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 25-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 23, 2003 has been entered.

Drawings

The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on June 23, 2003. Figure 1 has not been approved since it is not clear whether the portion of bar 16 at the element (7) should be shown in dotted lines (i.e. it passes through element 7 or is in front of element 7 and therefore can not be seen) or whether the portion of bar 16 extends behind the element 7 and is therefore shown correctly. In figure 1, the lead line for numeral 16 should not be shown in dotted lines. Figures 3,7,9,10,12,13, and 14 have been approved.

The drawings are objected to because it is not clear whether the portion of bar 16 at the element (7) should be shown in dotted lines (i.e. it passes through or is in front of element 7 and therefore can not be seen) or whether the portion of bar 16 extends behind the element 7. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the hooking devices having length

adjusting means (i.e. the different sized hooking devices must be shown) as defined in claims 25 and 45 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 25-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are replete with errors too numerous to mention specifically. Examples of such errors are as follows: In claim 25, lines 12-13 are awkward and confusing since it is not clear how the elongate shape of the base is "for the ground support device". In claim 25, lines 14-16 are confusing since it is not clear how the hooking device can include the ground device since the applicant earlier defines the base having the ground device and further it is not clear how a single ground device can be "spaced apart from each other". In claim 25, lines 17-19 are indefinite since it is not clear how the flexible structure item can "have the lower and upper hooking devices attached to opposite ends" and be attached to the base at one end and to a fixing device at the other end as defined earlier in the claim. In claim 25, lines 21-22, the following phrase is confusing "structure item of various lengths", i.e. what is the applicant trying to claim, an adjustable length structure item. In claims 26-32, "The set" should be "The set of elements". In claims 33-44, line 1, "A set" should apparently be "The set of elements" in order to remain

consistent with the rest of the claims. In claim 26, line 2, it is not clear what element is represented by the “support devices of the lower hooking device”, and there is no antecedent basis for “the support devices”. In claim 30, line 4, “the set” should apparently be “the set of elements”. Claim 33 is indefinite since it is not clear whether the support devices defined are the same as the ground support device defined in claim 25 or are additional members. In claim 34, line 3, there is no antecedent basis for “the fixing devices”. In claim 35, lines 1-2, there is no antecedent basis for “the lower linking device”. Claims 36-47 have indefinite errors similar to those listed above and should be corrected accordingly.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 25 and 45 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Claims 26-44,46, and 47 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian K. Green whose telephone number is (703) 308-1011. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (703) 308-0629. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 3611

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-4177.

Brian K. Green
BRIAN K. GREEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

bkg
July 14, 2003